

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

/JP03/08165

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ H01M2/16, H01G9/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ H01M2/16, H01G9/02

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1971-2003	Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho	1996-2003

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 2001-357890 A (ELITE IONERGY CO., LTD.), 26 December, 2001 (26.12.01), Claims 1 to 17 & US 2001/36573 A1	1
X	JP 2001-325965 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 22 November, 2001 (22.11.01), Claims 1 to 4; Par. Nos. [0008], [0009], [0012] (Family: none)	1
X	JP 2001-283810 A (Japan Radio Co., Ltd.), 12 October, 2001 (12.10.01), Claims 1 to 10; Par. No. [0010]; examples (Family: none)	1

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
 ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
24 September, 2003 (24.09.03)Date of mailing of the international search report
07 October, 2003 (07.10.03)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 10-154500 A (Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.), 09 June, 1998 (09.06.98), Claims 1 to 8; Par. Nos. [0025] to [0027] & WO 98/22988 A1	1
X	JP 8-250101 A (Japan Gore-Tex Inc.), 27 September, 1996 (27.09.96), Claims 1 to 6 (Family: none)	1
X	JP 7-326371 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 12 December, 1995 (12.12.95), Claim 1; examples (Family: none)	1
X	JP 6-231744 A (Toshiba Battery Co., Ltd.), 19 August, 1994 (19.08.94), Claim 1; examples (Family: none)	1
X	JP 62-254359 A (Toshiba Corp.), 06 November, 1987 (06.11.87), Claim 1 (Family: none)	1
P, X	JP 2002-313305 A (Nippon Sheet Glass Co., Ltd.), 25 October, 2002 (25.10.02), Claims 1 to 14; Par. Nos. [0035], [0036] (Family: none)	1

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

(See extra sheet)

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim No.: 1.

Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Continuation of Box No. II of continuation of first sheet(1)

In order for the group of inventions claimed in claims to satisfy the requirement of unity of invention, there must be "special technical features" which link the group of inventions so as to form a single general inventive concept. In this connection, it appears that the inventions claimed in claims 1-11 are common to each other in the technical matter "separator for electrical and electronic parts, comprising a coating of at least one substance selected from among ionic substances, hydroxylated substances and silicon compounds". However, this technical matter is nothing but one publicly known as illustrated in the following references 1-8, and hence this technical matter cannot be "special technical features".

Consequently, there is no "special technical feature" which links the group of inventions claimed in claims 1-11 so as to form a single general inventive concept. Therefore, it is apparent that the group of inventions claimed in claims 1-11 do not satisfy the requirement of unity of invention.

Now, with respect to the inventions claimed in the claims of this international application, the number of inventions, namely, the number of invention groups linked so as to form a single general inventive concept will be studied.

It appears that the inventions claimed in the claims of this international application, in view of the relationship of dependency thereof, involve the following nine groups A to I.

- A: claim 1 - claim 2 quoting claim 1
- B: claim 1 - claim 3 quoting claim 1
- C: claim 1 - claim 4 quoting claim 1
- D: claim 1 - claim 5 quoting claim 1
- E: claim 1 - claim 6 quoting claim 1
- F: claim 1 - claim 7 quoting claim 1
- G: claim 1 - claim 8 quoting claim 1
- H: claim 1 - claim 9 quoting claim 1 - claim 10 quoting claim 9
- I: claim 1 - claim 11 quoting claim 1

Among the groups A to I, it appears that there do not exist "special technical features" common to any two or more thereof. Therefore, it appears that claims 1-11 involve nine inventions.

[List of references]

1. JP 2001-357890 A (ELITE IONERGY CO., LTD.), 26 December, 2001 (26.12.01)
2. JP 2001-325965 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 22 November, 2001 (22.11.01)
3. JP 2001-283810 A (Nippon Muki Co., Ltd.), 12 October, 2001 (12.10.01)
4. JP 10-154500 A (Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.), 09 June, 1998 (09.06.98)
5. JP 8-250101 A (Japan Gore-Tex Inc.), 27 September, 1996 (27.09.96)
6. JP 7-326371 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 12 December, 1995 (12.12.95)
7. JP 6-231744 A (Toshiba Battery Co., Ltd.), 19 August, 1994 (19.08.94)
8. JP 62-254359 A (Toshiba Corp.), 06 November, 1987 (06.11.87)